

EXCISE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-229

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TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: December 23, 1967

SUBJECT: Weekly Internal Security Report: 12/15-21/67

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JAN 4 - 1968

1. What started last week's great fires has still not been finally determined, although government spokesmen have attributed them to saboteurs, and the FAR "Urban Resistance Unit" allegedly claimed credit for them in a bulletin sent to newspapers the day after the catastrophe.

2. To quiet public fears aroused by the fires, Interior Minister MANSILLA Pinto promised the public this week that no coup or other untoward event would disturb Guatemala's Christmas. Certainly the threat from the left seemed not too serious after the FAR's "Regional Central Committee" circulated a handbill denouncing "supposed" FAR spokesmen who remained loyal to the Communist Party.

3. The fact that by local standards it was a fairly calm week seemed to lend credibility to reassurances from on high. The only noteworthy incidents were the finding of an incendiary device planted in another large Guatemala City store and the case of 21-year-old Jorge Israel Solis Celis, a police investigator assigned to the Herrera Dori6n kidnapping case (Weekly Report: 11/16-23/67), who was found dead--tortured and shot--in Solol6; he had arrested the first suspects in the Herrera case.

Enclosure: List of Incidents

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Eaj* DATE 7 JAN 1968

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: POL:JDHope:cam:12/22/67

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Clearances:

POL-1:MHawkins (in draft)

149

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Guatemala A-2292
Enclosure

LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Dec. 15 - Attempted arson in Schacher Hnos., major Guatemala City store.
- 15 - Two policemen shot at from passing car in Z. 6, capital.
- 15 - Two men arrested for taunting guards of La Paquetería ruins and threatening them with death at hands of FAR, in Z. 1, capital.
- 15 - One Benito Aguilar García shot at, missed, in Z. 1, capital.
- Dec. 16 - Several unidentified persons try to disarm national policeman near La Paquetería ruins. One, Herman Mendizabál, captured.
- 16 - Man shot, wounded on way to Santa Catarina Pinula from city.
- 16 - Rigoberto Méndez Esteban kidnapped by men in passing jeep, in Escuintla; victim on way to bank to cash Q1,000 check.
- Dec. 17 - Angel Moisés Morales, official of graphic arts union, kidnapped by passing jeep in Z. 3, capital, abandoned wounded in outskirts.
- 17 - Police capture Ricardo Valiente Castillo charged with murder of Salvador Romero, in Iztapa, Escuintla.
- 17 - Young man slightly injured by blanks in Z. 18, capital.
- 17 - Man beaten and robbed in Z. 1, capital.
- 17 - Robbery in Z. 10, capital.
- 17 - Man and woman attacked in Z. 6, capital.
- 17 - Robbery in Z. 13, capital.
- 17 - Fire in shoe factory in San Cristóbal, Verapaz, A.V.
- 17 - Robbery in Z. 18, capital.
- 17 - Finca El Zapote in Z. 2, capital, set afire; blaze extinguished before damage done.
- Dec. 18 - Assault and robbery of two by two in Escuintla.

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Guatemala A- 229
Enclosure
Page 2

- Dec. 19 - Police reportedly catch sight of Raúl Lorenzana, wanted in connection with Herrera Dorión kidnapping, lose track of him again.
- 19 - Three persons, pretending FAR association, arrested in Amatitlán for threatening woman with kidnapping, in order to obtain Q50,000. Police doubt FAR connection.
- 19 - Young man kidnapped in Z. 6, capital, robbed, abandoned, taken to hospital.
- 19 - Unidentified persons burn, do considerable damage, to IRCA railroad station in El Jícaro, El Progreso.
- Dec. 20 - Jorge and Roberto Solís Chávez arrested in Z. 5, capital, for attacking policeman.
- 20 - Body of 21-year-old Jorge Israel Solís Celis, police investigator assigned to Herrera Dorión case, who disappeared Dec. 15, found dead--tortured and shot--in Sololá; victim had arrested first suspects in Herrera case.
- 20 - Man shot, wounded in Jutiapa Dept. by unidentified gang.
- Dec. 21 - Man shot, wounded in Huehuetenango.
- 21 - Arbencista deputy and former mayor of Chiquimula, José Antonio Monroy, found dead from undisclosed causes in Champona, Entre Ríos, Izabal.

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